Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.   (Currently Amended) A <u>method for generating a</u> stereoscopic image ~~generating method~~ having a left image and a right image for stereoscopic vision, said ~~stereoscopic image generating~~ method comprising:

a removed region extraction step of extracting a more inconspicuous region as a removed region by identifying the more inconspicuous region between ~~the~~ left and right target regions which do not include a pair of fused points corresponding to each other in the left image and the right image; and

a removed region processing step of carrying out processing of ~~making~~ <u>generating a stereoscopic image so as to make</u> more inconspicuous the removed region extracted in the removed region extraction step than a region remaining after eliminating the removed region from the target regions.

2.   (Currently Amended) A <u>method for generating a</u> stereoscopic image ~~generating method~~ having a left image and a right image for stereoscopic vision, said ~~stereoscopic image generating~~ method comprising:

a removed region extraction step of extracting left and right regions which do not include fused points corresponding to each other in the left image and the right image which are displayed on a display plane as a removed region; and

a removed region processing step of carrying out processing of ~~making~~ <u>generating a stereoscopic image so as to make</u> more inconspicuous the removed region extracted in the removed region extraction step than a region remaining after eliminating the removed region from the target regions.

3.   (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The ~~stereoscopic image generating~~ method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the processing of ~~making~~ generating a stereoscopic image so as to make more inconspicuous is a processing of blurring the removed region.

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~stereoscopic image~~ generating method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the processing of ~~making~~ generating a stereoscopic image so as to make more inconspicuous is a processing of blurring the removed region.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~stereoscopic image generating~~ method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the processing of ~~making~~ generating a stereoscopic image so as to make more inconspicuous is a processing of reducing contrast of the removed region.

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~stereoscopic image generating~~ method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the processing of ~~making~~ generating a stereoscopic image so as to make more inconspicuous is a processing of reducing contrast of the removed region.

8. (Currently Amended) The ~~stereoscopic image generating~~ method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the processing of ~~making~~ generating a stereoscopic image so as to make more inconspicuous is a processing of reducing saturation or brightness of the removed region.

9. (Currently Amended) The ~~stereoscopic image generating~~ method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the processing of ~~making~~ generating a stereoscopic image so as to make more inconspicuous is a processing of reducing saturation or brightness of the removed region.

10. (Currently Amended) The ~~stereoscopic image~~ generating method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the processing of ~~making~~ generating a stereoscopic image so as to make more inconspicuous is a processing of bringing a hue of the removed region to a cold color family.

11.   (Currently Amended) The ~~stereoscopic image generating~~ method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the processing of ~~making~~ generating a stereoscopic image so as to make more inconspicuous is a processing of bringing a hue of the removed region close to a cold color family.

12.   (Currently Amended) The ~~stereoscopic image generating~~ method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the processing of ~~making~~ generating a stereoscopic image so as to make more inconspicuous is a processing of bringing a hue, saturation or brightness of the removed region close to a hue, saturation or brightness of a region remaining after eliminating the removed region from the target regions.

13.   (Previously Presented) A stereoscopic image having a left image and a right image for stereoscopic vision, the stereoscopic image being processed so as to make more inconspicuous left and right regions which do not include fused points corresponding to each other in the left image and the right image which are displayed on a display plane than a region remaining after eliminating the removed region from the target regions.

14.   (Currently Amended) The ~~stereoscopic image generating~~ method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the processing of ~~making~~ generating a stereoscopic image so as to make more inconspicuous is one of or a combination of the following processings:

(1)   processing of blurring the removed region;

(2)   processing of reducing contrast of the removed region;

(3)   processing of reducing saturation or brightness of the removed region;

(4)   processing of bringing a hue of the removed region close to a cold color family; and

(5)   processing of bringing a hue, saturation or brightness of the removed region close to a hue, saturation or brightness of a region remaining after eliminating the removed region from the target regions.

15.   (Currently Amended) The ~~stereoscopic image generating~~ method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the processing of ~~making~~ generating a stereoscopic image so as to make more inconspicuous is one of or a combination of the following processings:

(1)   processing of blurring the removed region;

(2)   processing of reducing contrast of the removed region;

(3)   processing of reducing saturation or brightness of the removed region;

(4)   processing of bringing a hue of the removed region close to a cold color family; and

(5)   processing of bringing a hue, saturation or brightness of the removed region close to a hue, saturation or brightness of a region remaining after eliminating the removed region from the target regions.

16.   (Currently Amended) A stereoscopic image generating apparatus for generating a stereoscopic image having a left image and a right image for stereoscopic vision, said stereoscopic image generating apparatus comprising:

removed region extraction means of extracting a more inconspicuous region as a removed region by identifying the more inconspicuous region between ~~the~~ left and right target regions which do not include a pair of fused points corresponding to each other in the left image and the right image; and

a removed region processing means for carrying out processing of ~~making~~ generating a stereoscopic image so as to make more inconspicuous the removed region extracted in the removed region extraction means than a region remaining after eliminating the removed region from the target regions.

17.   (Currently Amended) A stereoscopic image generating apparatus for generating a stereoscopic image having a left image and a right image for stereoscopic vision, said stereoscopic image generating apparatus comprising:

a removed region extraction means of extracting left and right regions which do not include fused points corresponding to each other in the left image and the right image which are displayed on a display plane as a removed region; and

a removed region processing means of carrying out processing of ~~making~~ generating a stereoscopic image so as to make more inconspicuous the removed region identified by said removed region extraction means than a region remaining after eliminating the removed region from the target regions.

18.   (Currently Amended) A stereoscopic viewing method of watching a stereoscopic image having a left image and a right image for stereoscopic vision, said stereoscopic viewing method comprising:

a removed region extraction step of extracting a more inconspicuous region as a removed region by identifying the more inconspicuous region between ~~the~~ left and right target regions which do not include a pair of fused points corresponding to each other in the left image and the right image; and

a removed region processing step of carrying out processing of ~~making~~ generating a stereoscopic image so as to make more inconspicuous the removed region extracted in the removed region extraction step than a region remaining after eliminating the removed region from the target regions.

19.   (Currently Amended) A method for generating a stereoscopic image ~~generating method~~ having a left image and a right image for stereoscopic vision, said stereoscopic viewing method comprising:

a removed region extraction step of extracting left and right regions which do not include fused points corresponding to each other in the left image and the right image which are displayed on a display plane as a removed region; and

a removed region processing step of carrying out processing of ~~making~~ generating a stereoscopic image so as to make more inconspicuous the removed region extracted in the removed region extraction step than a region remaining after eliminating the removed region from the target regions.

20.   (Currently Amended) A stereoscopic viewing apparatus for showing a stereoscopic image having a left image and a right image for stereoscopic vision, said stereoscopic viewing apparatus comprising:

removed region extraction means of extracting a more inconspicuous region as a removed region by identifying the more inconspicuous region between ~~the~~ left and right target regions which do not include a pair of fused points corresponding to each other in the left image and the right image; and

a removed region processing means for carrying out processing of ~~making~~ generating a stereoscopic image so as to make more inconspicuous the removed region extracted in the removed region extraction means than a region remaining after eliminating the removed region from the target regions.

21.   (Currently Amended) A ~~stereoscopic image generating~~ apparatus for generating a stereoscopic image having a left image and a right image for stereoscopic vision, said ~~stereoscopic viewing~~ apparatus comprising:

a removed region extraction means of extracting left and right regions which do not include fused points corresponding to each other in the left image and the right image which are displayed on a display plane as a removed region; and

a removed region processing means of carrying out processing of ~~making~~ generating a stereoscopic image so as to make more inconspicuous the removed region extracted in the removed region extraction means than a region remaining after eliminating the removed region from the target regions.

22.   (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium storing a program for controlling a ~~stereoscopic image generating~~ apparatus <u>for generating a stereoscopic image</u> having a left image and a right image for stereoscopic vision, said program causing said stereoscopic image generating apparatus to execute:

a removed region extraction step of extracting a more inconspicuous region as a removed by identifying the more inconspicuous region between ~~the~~ left and right target regions which do not include a pair of fused points corresponding to each other in the left image and the right image; and

a removed region processing step of carrying out processing of ~~making~~ <u>generating a stereoscopic image so as to make</u> more inconspicuous the removed region extracted in the removed region extraction step than a region remaining after eliminating the removed region from the target regions.

23.   (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium storing a program for controlling ~~a stereoscopic image generating~~<u>an</u> apparatus <u>for generating a stereoscopic image</u> having a left image and a right image for stereoscopic vision, said ~~program,~~<u>program</u> causing said stereoscopic image generating apparatus to execute:

a removed region extraction step of extracting left and right regions which do not include fused points corresponding to each other in the left image and the right image which are displayed on a display plane as a removed region; and

a removed region processing step of carrying out processing of ~~making~~ <u>generating a stereoscopic image so as to make</u> more inconspicuous the removed region extracted in the removed region extraction step than a region remaining after eliminating the removed region from the target regions.

24.   (Currently Amended) A <u>method for generating a</u> stereoscopic image ~~generating method~~ which has a left image and a right image for stereoscopic vision, and

forms a virtual stereoscopic image by vergence angles generated from individual points corresponding in the left image and the right image, said ~~stereoscopic image generating~~ method comprising:

a removed region extraction step of extracting a more inconspicuous region as a removed region by identifying the more inconspicuous region between ~~the~~ left and right target regions which do not include a pair of fused points corresponding to each other in the left image and the right image;

a removed region processing step of carrying out processing of ~~making~~ generating a stereoscopic image so as to make more inconspicuous the removed region extracted in the removed region extraction step than a region remaining after eliminating the removed region from the target regions; and

a vergence angle modifying step of increasing a stereoscopic effect by carrying out deformation processing of a left image and a right image of a stereoscopic image which are prepared in advance to form the virtual stereoscopic image, by increasing or decreasing the vergence angles generated by the individual points of the stereoscopic image according to a prescribed rule, and by altering a depth of the virtual stereoscopic image.

25.   (Currently Amended) A <u>method for generating a</u> stereoscopic image ~~generating method~~ which has a left image and a right image for stereoscopic vision, and forms a virtual stereoscopic image by vergence angles generated from individual points corresponding in the left image and the right image, said ~~stereoscopic image generating method,~~<u>method</u> comprising:

a removed region extraction step of extracting left and right regions which do not include fused points corresponding to each other in the left image and the right image which are displayed on a display plane as a removed region;

a removed region processing step of carrying out processing of ~~making~~ generating a stereoscopic image so as to make more inconspicuous the removed region extracted in the removed region extraction step than a region remaining after eliminating the removed region from the target regions; and

a vergence angle modifying step of increasing a stereoscopic effect by carrying out deformation processing of a left image and a right image of a stereoscopic image which are prepared in advance to form the virtual stereoscopic image, by increasing or decreasing the vergence angles generated by the individual points of the stereoscopic image according to a prescribed rule, and by altering a depth of the virtual stereoscopic image.